GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:477
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
WAIVING OF LOANS
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering on waiver of outstanding dues of the Bharti Groups;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received representation against waiver of dues;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Earlier, there were outstanding dues in respect of terminated Cellular Mobile Telephone Service licence of Punjab Circle of M/s. Bharti Mobile Limited, a Bharti Group company (earlier name JT Mobile Ltd.). However, M/s. Bharti Mobile was offered a package of restoration of the licence alongwith simultaneous migration to New Telecom Policy-1999 regime under letter dated 19.09.2001 subject to full payment of dues in terms of the Migration Package. The company has since paid the full amount of dues as per the migration package of Rs. 491 crores (approx.) and fulfilled other conditions of the migration package such as withdrawal of legal cases pending in High Court etc. and hence the licnece was restored on 25.09.2001. In terms of Arbitration Clause of the Licence Agreement, a Sole Arbitrator has been appointed for resolution of dispute raised by the company about payability of licence fees dues for a period of about 23 months (between 18.4.1996 to 10.3.1998).

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) & (f): Since the dues have not been waived, action on these representations is not warranted.